

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: ROMANOV'S PROSPECTS

1. WE ARE REPORTING THE FOLLOWING COLLECTION OF IMPRESSIONS
AND RUMORS BEARING ON LENINGRAD REGIONAL FIRST PARTY
SECRETARY G.V. ROMANOV'S POSITION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL
AS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO THOSE CAREFULLY FOLLOWING
DEVELOPING SITUATION IN POLITBURO AND SUPREME SOVIET:

-- ROMANOV'S SPEECH AT TAURIDE PALACE ON JUNE 9 TO
LENINGRAD PARTY ACTIVISTS ON PROPOSALS FOR A NEW CONSTI-
TUTION WAS ESPECIALLY STRIKING FOR ITS PERSONAL FLATTERY
OF BREZHNEV. ROMANOV CREDITED BREZHNEV PERSONALLY AS
"INSPIRER AND CREATOR" OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION, PRAISED
HIS "ENORMOUS PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS" IN ELABORATION OF
THE DRAFT AND LABELED BREZHNEV'S REPORT AT THE CC PLENUM
AS "EXTREMELY FILLED WITH INSPIRING IDEAS AND WELL
REASONED". ROMANOV ALSO PORTRAYED CURRENT DISCUSSION
OF NEW CONSTITUTION AS YET ANOTHER "OBVIOUS EXAMPLE"
OF "THE UNSWERVING POLICIES OF THE PARTY AFTER THE
OCTOBER (1964) PLENUM" TOWARD FURTHER DEMOCRATIZATION
OF THE SOVIET STATE AND SOCIAL LIFE;

-- A SMALL LENINGRAD PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT RECENTLY
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NOTED THAT ROMANOV HAS BEEN GIVEN AN ASSISTANT (POMOSHCHNIK),
A SIGNIFICANT GESTURE UNDERLINING HIS EVER INCREASING
RESPONSIBILITIES.

-- A JOURNALIST SOURCE RECENTLY TOLD UPI CORRESPONDENT
SVEILIS HERE THAT ROMANOV HAS POWERFUL ENEMIES IN THE
POLITBURO WHO HAVE TAKEN A STRONG PERSONAL DISLIKE TO HIM
AND SUPPOSEDLY ARE JEALOUS OF THE SPEED WITH WHICH HE

HAS MOVED TO THE TOP. THE JOURNALIST LISTED THESE AS POLITBURO MEMBERS AND CP ASECRETARIES ANDREY KIRILENKO AND DMITRIY USTINOV.

-- A DISAFFECTED DOTSENT IN METALLURGY, WHO IS SEEKING EMIGRATION, TOLD US THAT ROMANOV DEFENDED A DOCTORAL DISSERTATION TWO MONTHS AGO. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, A "HIGHER SCHOOL" INTELLECTUAL, WHOSE PARTY CARD ROMANOV HAD PERSONALLY LIFTED AND WHOFIS FAMILIAR WITH THE MATERIAL USED BY ROMANOV IN HIS DISSERTATION, IS ALLEGING THAT ROMANOV'S WORK WAS DISHONEST AND BASED ON FALSIFIED MATERIAL. OUT OF REVENGE, THE INTELLECTUAL REPORTEDLY HAS GIVEN AN ACCOUNT OF THIS SITUATION TO POLITBURO MEMBERS SHCHERBITSKIY AND ANDROPOV WITH THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE USED AGAINST ROMANOV IN CURRENT MANEUVERINGS FOR POWER AT THE TOP.

2. COMMENT: ROMANOV CLEARLY SEEMS TO BE COZYING UP TO BREZHNEV, AND ASSIGNMENT OF ASSISTANT INDICATES THAT HE IS TAKING NECESSARY PERSONAL ADMINISTRATIVE STEPS TO PERMIT HIM TO BETTER HANDLE ANY ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. DOCTORAL DISSERTATION RUMOR IS INTERESTING ONE SINCE ROMANOV HAS SOMEWHAT OF A LOCAL REPUTATION AS ANTI-INTELLECTUAL. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE OF OUR SOURCES RECENTLY CREDITED ROMANOV AS SAYING THAT SO LONG AS HE IS LENINGRAD FIRST PARTY SECRETARY, THERE WILL NEVER BE A STATUE ERECTED HERE TO DOSTOIEVSKY. ROMANOV ALSO HAS A REPUTATION FOR FRANK TALK WITH INTELLECTUALS ABOUT THEIR POLITICAL DUTIES, WHICH HAS CAUSED SOME RESENTMENT. IF DOCTORAL DISSER-
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TATION RUMOR IS TRUE, IT MIGHT INDICATE THAT ROMANOV IS TRYING TO ALLAY THIS ANTI-INTELLECTUAL REPUTATION AND FLESH OUT HIS OVERALL IMAGE IN PREPARATION FOR BROADER NATIONAL POSITION. AS FOR WHICH JOB HE IS LIKELY TO GET, SPECULATION WE HAVE HEARD TENDS TO LAY STRESS ON ROMANOV'S REPUTATION AS TOUGH ECONOMIC MANAGER WHO HAS BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN MODERNIZING AND UPGRADING LENINGRAD ECONOMY. ROMANOV HIMSELF HAS BEEN STRESSING THIS IMAGE BY SUCH MOVES AS SEEING TO IT THAT VISITING HIGH RANKERS IN PAST SIX MONTHS, SUCH AS SUSLOV, CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY RYBOV, AND MOSCOW FIRST PARTY SECRETARY, V.I. KONOTOP, ARE THOROUGHLY STEEPED IN ECONOMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LENINGRAD REGION DURING THEIR STAY AND BY HIS RECENT PRAVDA ARTICLE ON THE ECONOMY. HENCE, CONVENTIONAL WISDOM HERE-ALL BASED ON PURE CONJECTURE-- IS THAT IN ANY MOVE, ROMANOV IS MOST LIKELY TO GET A KEY ECONOMIC SLOT, POSSIBLY KOSYGIN'S. RUECKERT

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